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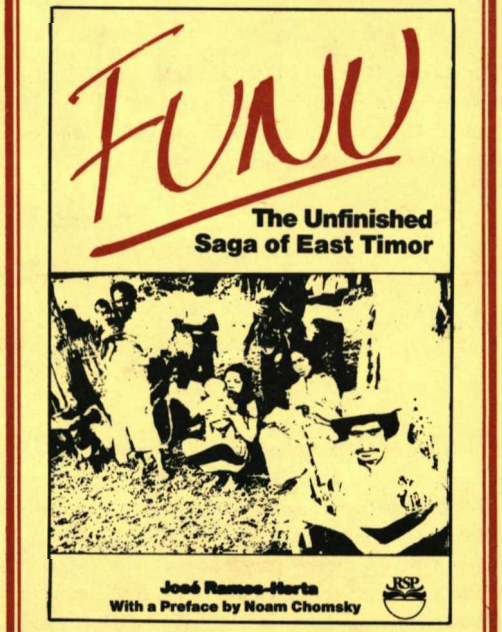
FUNU

The Unfinished Saga of East Timor



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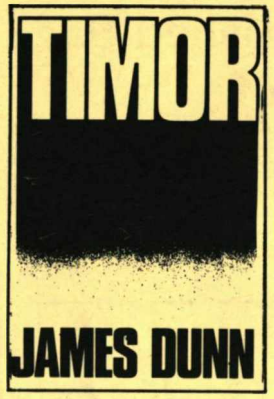

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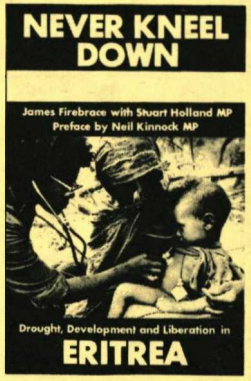
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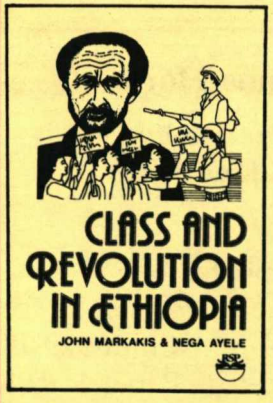

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This is the first reliable, inside account of one of the world's most forgotten national resistance movements, the struggle of the East Timorese against Portuguese colonialism and (since 1975) Indonesian invasion and occupation. Horta's authoritative blend of personal and often moving narrative and knowledgeable analysis of public and international affairs results in a book of importance to both historians and human rights activists.

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The torture of the people of Timor will continue as long as we are willing to look the other way. The Timorese will survive at best "under arrest," in the words of a recent West German parliamentary delegation, describing what they saw in a country where "people do not laugh." Meanwhile, Western journalists on guided tours will applaud the efforts being undertaken by the Indonesians to bring the benefits of civilization to the benighted Timorese, who will soon suffer the fate of the people of West Papua, cynically consigned to Indonesia by the West years earlier, now facing obliteration as their territory becomes the site of "the largest colonization program in history." Survival International informs us. But profits flow, and all is well, while Western moralists weep about the crimes of the Evil Empire and its clients, mimicking the commissars who are their models, who impress an honest person no less with their agonies over Western crimes.

—Noam Chomsky
From the Preface

FUNU
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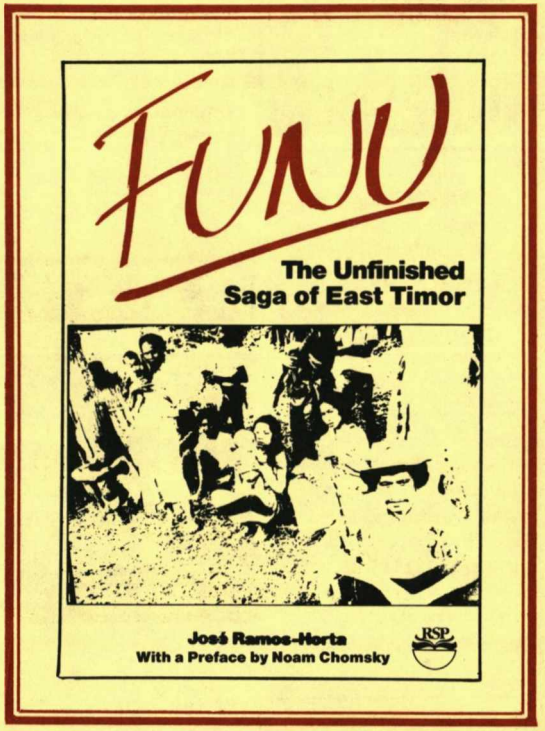

José Ramos-Horta

with a preface by Noam Chomsky

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The struggle of East Timor is unique. It was recently invaded and occupied not by European colonialists, but by another Third World country, one in fact that has posed as a champion of freedom. The shocking genocide of its people is being carried out with the complicity if not collaboration of both East and West, and the silence (with notable exceptions) of many Third World nations.

Yet the East Timorese fight on for the independence that is every peoples' right.

José Ramos-Horta has been for ten years FRETILIN's representative at the UN. His personal true story, FUNU, is a book unequalled in the literature of liberation. At once personal and historical, it is the tender and often hilarious story of a child growing up in a remote Portuguese colonial backwater; of an idealistic young activist drawn into (and increasingly at the center of) his nation's struggle for independence; of a naive but determined UN Representative learning first hand the "games nations play." It is a plea for justice, an exposure of hypocrisy: and a first hand, fascinating and shocking look behind the scenes at the organized hypocrisy of the world's only forum of nations.